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LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a press statement on Angola issued in Washington on 5 August 1994 by the Spokesman of the United States Department of State.

I should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT

Annex

Press statement on Angola issued by the Spokesman of the United States Department of State on 5 August 1994 in Washington, D.C.

The United States of America welcomes President Mandela's decision to lend his statesmanship to bring peace to Angola at this critical and difficult juncture of the Lusaka peace process. President Mandela agreed to engage in the peace process in response to a request by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the observers to the peace talks, the United States, Portugal and the Russian Federation. His decision is a clear demonstration of courage and commitment to advancing peace and stability in the region. While President Mandela's efforts can be successful only if matched by a desire for peace on the part of the Angolan leadership, the United States applauds President Mandela's willingness to become personally involved in the complex Angolan crisis.

President Mandela has met with President Dos Santos. He has invited the leader of the União Nacional para Independencia Total de Angola (UNITA), Mr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, to Pretoria for direct discussions. We urge Mr. Savimbi, in the strongest possible terms to go to Pretoria as expeditiously as possible. It is time to bring the Lusaka peace process to closure.

Recent events in South Africa illustrate that tolerance and compromise are the essential elements in a peaceful transition to inclusive democracy. No one is better placed to bring this message to Angola than Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela. In the end, though, the responsibility for the resolution of the civil war in Angola rests squarely with Angola's leaders, particularly Mr. Savimbi.

The concerned members of the international community have offered Angola's leaders a comprehensive peace accord that meets the legitimate needs of both sides and allows all Angolans to finally achieve the peace, national reconciliation and economic development that they deserve. It is the leaders of Angola who must reject war and choose peace.

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